GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:165
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2003
COORDINATION IN FOOD MANAGEMENT
DHANI RAM SHANDIL;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is facing problems due to lack of coordination among different organisations involved in food management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to plug the loopholes;

(d) whether the Government has set up any special task force for food safety;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time likely to be taken for constitution and submission of its report?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 165 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 1 2003 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Effective co-ordination exists amongst Central Government, the FCI, State Governments and its Agencies in the procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes.

(c): To ensure foodgrains reach the intended beneficiaries, the following steps, inter alia have been taken :-

(i) To maintain supplies and secure proper availability and distribution of foodgrains by the States, the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified.

(ii) The State Governments have been asked to involve the Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas in the identification of BPL and Antyodaya families.

(iii) Vigilance Committees have been constituted at various levels, including at the FPS level, for effective monitoring.

(d): Task Force Teams have been constituted to check irregularities and for inspection and monitoring of the TPDS and Antyodaya Anna Yojana, including checking of the quality of foodgrains supplied.

(e)&(f): Task Force Teams have already visited and submitted Reports in respect of the States of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and NCT of DelhiThe shortcomings observed by the Task Force Teams have been sent to the State Governments for corrective action.